Farm Notes.

CARBOLIC ACID.

The use of carbolic acid is very important to the keeper of poultry. It acts as an insectide, keeping fowls and nests clear of vermin, is an excellent deodorizer, and in small quantities given with drink or food promotes the healthfulness of fowls and prevents, if it will not cure, chicken cholera.

SWEET CORN COBS.

The cobs from which sweet corn has been cut contain considerable nutriment and will be greedily eaten by cows. Putting a little salt on them makes them a little more palatable. Until the corn ripens, the cob contains much of the saccharine matter that is afterward changed to the starch of the grain.

SWEET VS. SOUR APPLES.

Sweet apples are generally considered more valuable for feeding than sour, but there is less difference than many suppose. If well ripened even sour apples contain a good deal of sweet, which is to the taste overcome by a slight disproportion of acid. Those who have fed sour ripe apples find them nearly or quite as nutritive as sweet ones. They should not, however, be given to hogs which have corn in the ear, as this makes the pigs teeth sore.

WHY SHEEP SEEK ELEVATED GROUNDS.

If left to themselves sheep will retire at night to the most elevated part of the field. This is a relic of the time when such precaution was necessary that they might guard against approaching danger from wild animals. But the fact has its advantages. The knolls are generally poor, but sheep will soon enrich them. The grass also is sweeter than on lowland and sheep are less liable to disease.

FALL PLOWING.

Where the object of Fall plowing is to expose the soil to thorough pulverization by frost, getting it done early is not important. In fact there is sometimes a gain by leaving it until the surface is slightly frozen. This turned to the bottom of the furrow holds it up, and less freezing is required to pulverize the whole mass. But if a heavy sod is to be fall plowed, have the work done early enough so that the sod may partly rot this Fall. If not, it will be a bad piece to put hoed crops in next season.

SEED REQUIRED PER ACRE.

The respective advantages of thick and thin seeding depend upon circumstances, some of which cannot be known at the time of seeding. So far as the weather is concerned sowing a crop will always be some thing like taking a ticket in a lottery. As a rule, the richer and better fitted the ground, the less seed will be required of small grain. But with corn the reverse is true. On very poor soil in the South it is a common practice to make hills of 3½ and sometimes four feet apart, and allow only two stalks to the hill.

CLEANING FENCE CORNERS.

After the harvest is done, if the work has not been attended to the fence corners should be cleaned up and all weeds burned. This work is much more neglected than it used to be before mowers and reapers came into vogue. It is something that has to be done by hand, and the difficulty now is to get men who will swing the scythe faithfully. Many hired men if set at this job consider it an invitation to take a day off, and will fool away all of an afternoon doing less than a man ought to do in a couple of hours. The difficulty in getting fence corners cleaned out is the cause of many weeds in fields, and one strong reason for abolishing all interior fences.

FEED FOR COWS.

Frank S. Peer, Mount Morris, N. Y., speaking of economical grain feed for cows, says wheat bran and middlings have given him the best results. In comparing bran with other grain, it should be by weight and not by measure. Next to bran he favors ground oats, then cotton seed meal. He has had as good results from feeding one pound of bran to one of corn meal as from two pounds of corn meal. Half oats and half bran, by weight, price considered give better results than oats and corn. He is no advocate of corn, except for pork or beef. Next to oats he finds cotton seed meal cheaper than corn or oil meal. Under his practice he finds the most economical food to be four pounds of bran, three pounds of ground oats to one pound cotton seed meal. He is experimenting with pea meal, in place of cotton seed with equally good results, and believes for those who would raise peas that the latter would be found more economical than cotton seed meal.

HOW TO LEAD A COW.

The natural and apparently easiest way to lead a cow is to tie a rope around her horns. But if she is not thoroughly broken, this gives her too much advantage, she can, if she will, pull by the horns so as to require the whole strength of a man to hold her. But if after passing the rope around her horns a halter is made of it so that the pulling is from the nose, it is a very different matter. Thus a small boy can manage any ordinary animal. With a regular halter, any cow can be easily taught to lead. If she proves very refractory a ring through the nose, and the rope or string attached to that will easily master the most obdurate puller.

WATER FOR BREEDING SOWS.

It is surprising to any one who has not noticed the fact before how much more water sows will drink that have to give milk to a lot of suckling pigs than is needed by others fattening on the same feed. There is sound philosophy underlaying the prevalent practice of giving slops and other thin watery or milky stuff to the sows with pig. They will make good use even of dish water, though this is apt to be salty and to necessitate plenty of pure water afterwards. The milk supply of breeding sows kept in pens during hot weather is apt to be curtailed by lack of drink. Of course, plenty of good food is also necessary, or the sow will decline so much in flesh as to be permanently injured.

CLOVER AFTER CLOVER.

One singular fact about clover is that a sod of this plant plowed late in the summer or early in the fall for wheat cannot be well seeded with clover again the following spring. Seed will start all right but will die out before the grain is harvested, so that unless seeded with timothy the fall before the surface will be bare of valuable grasses. Were it not for this fact a two years rotation, clover and wheat succeeding each other alternately, would be popular in some places adapted to wheat growing. This was a common rotation fifty or more years ago with wheat growers, but in those days the clover was plowed under in June and thoroughly worked until wheat seeding time. Even then, however, with this early plowing the clover did not catch as well on fallow ground as it did with wheat sown after corn or spring grain.

FALLEN APPLES AND CODLING MOTHS.

An item in an agricultural exchange advises the collection of fallen apples daily as a means of destroying the codling moth. If this advice is given to pigs running in the orchard it is all right, but if, presumably, it is addressed to the readers it is faulty. The worm in most apples that fall is ready to leave its receptacle by the time this accident occurs. In nine cases out of ten it has left the apple within an hour after it has fallen. Whoever consigns the apple to destruction with the notion that a worm is thereby being destroyed is sadly deceived. Sheep are better than pigs for this business. The pig is naturally lazy, or ought to be, and does not get up early in the mornings. Sheep, on the contrary, will browse around during the night and be ready to catch the apple as soon as it drops.

ENSILAGE.

"Why is ensilage better than the same stalk dried? Why is a ripe, juicy apple better to eat than a dried one? The one has not had its cellular structure turned into wood by drying, and it goes into the system in a soluble condition, ready to be acted upon by the fluids of the stomach, and without very much preparation is ready for assimilation. The cellular tissue of the dried plants must be first softened, or broken down, so that the starches, sugars, nitrogen, lime, etc., can be liberated, all calling for an increased expenditure of animal force to accomplish; exactly what nature has done in the succulent, undried fodder.—*Correspondence Ohio Farmer.*

REMEDY FOR HORSE DISTEMPER.

When an animal comes down with the distemper it should be placed in a quiet, comfortable enclosure, where there is an abundance of pure air and sunlight. At this season of the year the windows of the stall should be covered with a netting of some kind to keep out the flies, which are very annoying, even to a healthy animal. Feed upon cut grass and bran mashes, with an occasional mess of apples or potatoes. Most horses will prefer the former. Sour apples sometimes appear to have a better effect than sweet fruit in cases of distemper. Medicines should be given with caution. Quinine is one of the latest, and probably the most valuable of remedies for distemper. In a communication to the *Winterset Madisonian*, Mr. L. Brodhead, well known throughout the country as the able superintendent and agent of the world-renowned Woodburn Farm, Lexington, Ky., where Maud S. (2.08¾) and a host of the brilliant lights of the turf were bred, makes the following suggestions in treating distemper: "Give weanlings from fifteen to twenty grains of quinine a day. We generally give this quantity once a day, but when first taken and the fever is high give about fifteen grains twice a day, morning and night. If the attack is mild, give but one dose daily until the disease has left the system. The quinine allays the fever, sooths the inflamed throat and is an excellent tonic. So far it has cured every case we have had, which, to the present time numbers not less than 150. In the early Spring we had several very severe cases that I am sure we should have lost had it not been for the quinine. These were yearlings, and we gave twenty grains at a dose twice a day. Older horses can have thirty grains at a dose, morning and night, making sixty grains daily. Whenever fever exists in an animal's system, no matter from what cause, use quinine freely. It is almost a specific for lung fever, or pneumonia, when administered in season. I have cured two cases of lock-jaw in sucklings with quinine and altrophia, twenty drops of the latter to a dose. We are not particular to weigh the quinine. We guess at a dose, put it in a spoon,, pull the animal's tongue aside without elevating its head, insert the spoon in its mouth, turn it over and wipe on the tongue, as it is withdrawn from the mouth. It is easily administered in this manner, and the animal gets it all. It is perfectly safe, and there is little if any danger in giving too much. I have used quinine four or five years, and always with good results." Quinine can be obtained of any druggist, and in getting a supply we would recommend having it put up in powders of twenty grains each; then if thirty-grain doses are wanted for a grown animal, take three powders, divide one equally and add it to the other two, or if fifteen-grain doses are wanted for a weanling, take one-fourth, as near as can be estimated, from each of these powders, and place the three portions in a paper by itself. This will give four powders of fifteen grains each. Be careful to get the pure article. It is an expensive drug, and when it is offered at a low price is pretty sure to have been adulterated.—*American Cultivator.*

HOW TO PLANT THE GRAPE.

The old grape grower who can plant 1,000 cuttings without a particle of root and make each throw up three feet of cane the first season, or who can scarcely drop a vine in the field without finding it has taken root, will smile at my telling how to plant, yet there is a right way to do everything, and some people have yet to learn how to plant the grape. Nurserymen before planting take a handful of vines and clip off more than half the roots with one blow of a sharp hatchet on a block. The vine may or may not grow better for this. His object is to remove any useless encumbrance to rapid planting, and to get a mass of short lateral roots, instead of a few roots several feet long, which gives extra trouble in digging. I do not suppose I can induce you to cut your vines thus. If you do not, dig a broader bed for the roots and spread them out so they will not crowd one another. Ordinarily we plant the vine just deep enough to escape the plow and cultivator, say 8 inches deep, but far north where the roots are liable to injury by severe winters they may be planted much deeper, say a foot or more, providing the hard subsoil is removed and good loam put in its place, but with such deep planting do not fill up the hole fully the first season. In some localities they dig a hole two feet deep, planting the vine there, covering the roots only the usual depth. Each season more covering is applied, and each season the vine throws out new roots, until after a time the hole is filled and the vine is supposed to be furnished with a continuous mass of roots the whole depth, which defy the most severe winters. But at Rochester, N. Y., I have never lost a vine by the severity of our winters, thus such precautions would not be necessary in most cases. As vines are usually trained to a single stake the first two years it is best to place the stake close beside the vine at planting, otherwise, if driven down later serious injury might be done to prominent roots. If planting a square plot mark it both ways so as to admit of horse cultivation, and plant at the crossing of the marker, as for corn. Do not place any manure or other fertilizer in contact or near the roots. The soil should be made rich the season before planting, but if not your best method is to apply as a mulch about the vine after planting. Thousands of vines are killed each season by placing fertilizers in contact with the roots. After placing a few inches of fine soil about the roots tread it firmly, then more earth and tread again. This firming the soil in planting everything is of vital importance. Do not fear getting the soil too firm. I would not object to pounding it down as though setting a fence post, providing in all cases the soil was dry enough for planting and not wet and soggy.

The distance between vines depends on the vigor of the variety, from 6 feet for Delaware and other slow growers, to 10 feet for Concord and others of like vigor. 6 by 6 feet requires 1,210 vines per acre. 10 by 10 feet requires 435 vines per acre.—*Green's Fruit Grower.*

GREASING A WHEEL.

A paper devoted to coach-making gives some good hints respecting this matter. A well made-wheel will endure constant wear from ten to twenty years if care is taken to use the right kind and amount of grease; but if this matter is not attended to, it will be used up in five to six years. Lard should never be used on a wagon, for it will penetrate the hub and work its way out around the tenons of the spokes, thus spoiling the wheel. Tallow is the best lubricator for wooden axletrees, and castor oil for iron hubs, but many of the patent axle greases are also excellent, have the merit of being cheaper and more convenient to handle. Just grease enough should be applied to the spindle of a wagon to give it a slight coating. This is better than more, for the surplus put on will work out at the ends and be forced by the shoulderbans and nut-washer into the hub around the outside of the boxes. To oil an iron axle tree first wipe the spindle clean with a cloth wet with spirits of turpentine, and then apply a few drops of castor oil near the shoulder and end. One teaspoonful is sufficient for the whole.

HINTS FOR GRAPE GROWERS.

Prepare the ground in fall. Give the vine plenty of manure, old and well decomposed; fresh manure excites growth, but does not mature it. Luxuriant growth does not always insure fruit. Dig deep, but plant shallow. Young vines produce beautiful fruit, but old vines produce the richest. Prune in autumn in order to insure growth, but in spring to promote fruitfulness. Plant your vines before you make trellises. Vines, like old soldiers, should have good arms. Prune spurs to one developed bud, for the nearer the old wood the higher flavored the fruit. Those who prune long must soon climb. Vine leaves love the sun, the fruit the shade. Every leaf has a bud at the base, and either a bunch of fruit or a tendril opposite it. A tendril is an abortive fruit bunch—a bunch of fruit a productive tendril. A bunch of grapes without a healthy leaf opposite is like a ship at sea without a rudder—it can't come to port. Laterals are like politicians if not checked they are the worst of thieves.—*Vine Dresser.*

—The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1829.

FARM ANIMALS AND THEIR FEED.

It is a very superior ox that can make a gain of four pounds of flesh per day. Of this, two-thirds is water, leaving only one and one-third pounds of dry substance to nourish the beef eater. Many cows can be found that give forty pounds of milk per day, and of this at least five pounds are solid, dry substance. The ox and the cow would probably consume about the same amount of food each to produce these results. This being the case, it is easy to see that the cow is far the more profitable machine for converting the grass and coarse vegetation of the earth into good food for the human stomach. The little girl from the city who discovered that milk is only "chewed grass" has yet more to learn—that all flesh is grass.—*New England Farmer.*

COLIC IN HORSES.

One of the principal causes of colic in horses is improper mastication and ensalivation of food. Many horses have a voracious appetite and are inclined to eat fast and bolt their food only partially masticated; while other horses have uneven and irregular molar teeth, rendering them incapable of masticating their food properly. Mark an error which is often committed by non-professional traveling horse dentists. Instead of removing the sharp and irregular corners of the teeth they usually destroy one-third part of the entire table surface of the molar teeth, thus forever destroying one of the most important organs of digestion. Here is a point, and a very important one, for us to examine in all subjects that are sufferers from colic. If the teeth are not performing their function then we must expect indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble.—*Dr. Fair in Ohio Farmer.*

APPLES FOR COWS.

A moderate quantity of apples, say six to eight quarts per day, while containing little substance of nutritive value, will assist in the digestion of her other food, and their flavoring will improve the taste of the milk. But an excessive amount of apples might be an injury from the amount of seeds they contain. Apple seeds in considerable quantity operate on the urinary organs, and this is what has led some to suppose that the apples dry cows up. The writer has often fed the small quantity of apples mentioned to cows with decided benefit. It is better that they should be fed with nitrogenous food, as apples are very deficient in albuminoids.—*Prof. Stewart in Country Gentleman.*

THE GAME LAW.

Many people ask questions about the game law of this State. This synopsis of time when game may and may not be killed answers them: Deer, August 15 to February 15, except in the counties of Johnston and those east of the Wilmington & Weldon railroad. Partridges, quails, doves, robins, larks, mocking birds and wild turkeys, October 15 to April 1, except in the counties of Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Johnston, Jones, Dare, Onslow, Carteret and Columbus, in which these birds are not protected. In Currituck county, partridges and quails, December 1 to April 1. Exportation of partridges and quails (alive or dead) from the State is prohibited. Sunday shooting is prohibited. Killing wildfowl for sale in Currituck county or shipping them out of that county is prohibited between March 10, and November 10. Non-residents forbidden to shoot wildfowl in the waters of Currituck and Dare counties from blind, box or battery not on land at the time. Eggs of partridges and quail protected. Fire hunting of wildfowl unlawful.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—The Arkansas *Meteor* says: "Tennessee pays $9,000,000 to support its dogs and $3,000,000 to educate its children. Three dollars for dogs and one for the children of the State. We suppose it is in about the same ratio in Arkansas; and may be a little more so." These are not the only States that pay three times as much to support their dogs as to educate their children. The average dog, like the anarchist population, is a non-producer of wealth, and a destroyer of property.